



August 9, 2017

Mr. Jeff Troyer, Chair
State 911 Committee
7150 Harris Drive
Dimondale, MI 48821

RE: SB 400 and HB 4651

Mr. Troyer and Members of the SNC:

The Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC) is writing to express its support of SB 400 and HB 4651, Next Generation 911 (NG911).

In many of our communities across the state, the fire chief is the primary officer responsible for coordinating inter-departmental response and cross jurisdictional communication during an emergency. The communications network to carry out this coordination and response is crucial to ensuring the fastest, safest and most appropriate response.

As technology advances, it is imperative that communities have the means to provide the necessary infrastructure to support the technology. Many of our communities have networks that are designed for hard-wired telephones, utilizing copper lines. These outdated systems do not allow for the use of digital technology and do not consider such concerns as security and communication across county lines.

Funding for the necessary infrastructure has been a serious issue for many parts of Michigan. SB 400 and HB 4651 establish a mechanism so that all devices having access to 9-1-1 contribute equally to funding 9-1-1 operations.

The MAFC supports SB 400 and HB 4651 and looks forward to working with all interested parties for final passage of the legislation. If you have any questions please contact Chief Mike O'Brian at (810) 459-0116 or our governmental representative Stephanie Johnson, Kandler Reed Khoury & Muchmore at 517-485-4044.

Sincerely,

Mike O'Brian
President Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs